

Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact:

Peter N. Gabby, Lead Commodity Specialist
U.S. Geological Survey
989 National Center
Reston, VA 20192
Telephone: (703) 648-4957, Fax: (703) 648-7757
E-mail: pgabby@usgs.gov

Nicholas A. Muniz (Data)
Telephone: (703) 648-7980
E-mail: nmuniz@usgs.gov
Fax: (703) 648-7975

Internet: <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals>

LEAD IN JULY 2005

Domestic mine production, based on the net quantity of lead recovered from concentrate, was 39,500 metric tons (t) in July, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. This was a decrease of about 5% compared with production in June 2005 and an increase of about 17% compared with that of July 2004. Secondary refinery production (94,700 t) was nearly unchanged from the value of the previous month, and reported consumption (120,000 t) was down by about 5% compared with that of June. When compared with that of July 2004, secondary production was down by about 3% and reported consumption was up by about 5%. Recently a reporting error was discovered in secondary refinery production. The 2005 year-to-date total has been adjusted upward about 13%.

According to Platts Metals Week published quotations, the average North American producer price decreased about 1% from that of the previous month to 60.36 cents per pound. The London Metal Exchange Ltd. (LME) cash price in July 2005

ranged from a low of \$824 per metric ton (July 15) to a high of \$885.50 per metric ton (July 8), and averaged \$854.07 per metric ton, about a 13% decrease compared with the June price. Previously quoted July prices were up by about 12% and down by 9%, respectively, when compared with July 2004 averages. During July, LME lead stocks increased by 18,825 t to 64,425 t.

The National Defense Stockpile aggregated cash disposal (sale) of lead in July, under the monthly Basic Ordering Agreement DLA-Lead-005, was 1,450 t (approximately 1,598 short tons), with an approximate value of \$1.3 million (Defense National Stockpile Center, 2005).

Reference Cited

Defense National Stockpile Center, 2005, Stockpile announces lead sales for July 2005: Fort Belvoir, VA, Defense National Stockpile Center news release, August 9, 1 p.

TABLE 1
SALIENT LEAD STATISTICS IN THE UNITED STATES¹

(Metric tons, lead content, unless otherwise specified)

	2004		2005		
	Year	January - July	June	July	January - July
Production:					
Mine (recoverable)	430,000	254,000 ^r	41,400 ^r	39,500	250,000
Primary refinery	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Secondary refinery:					
Reported by smelters/refineries	1,120,000	652,000 ^r	92,400 ^r	92,600	648,000
Estimated	11,300	6,580 ^r	934 ^r	935	6,540
Recovered from copper-base scrap ^c	15,000	8,750	1,250	1,250	8,750
Total secondary	1,140,000	667,000 ^r	94,600 ^r	94,700	663,000
Stocks, end of period:					
Primary refineries	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Secondary smelters and consumers	66,100	66,700	60,700 ^r	61,500	61,500
Imports for consumption:					
Ore and concentrate	3	1	4	NA	10 ²
Refined metal	197,000	93,500	24,800	NA	140,000 ²
Consumption:					
Reported	1,480,000	862,000 ^r	126,000	120,000	872,000
Undistributed ^c	44,300	25,900 ^r	3,780	3,610	26,200
Total	1,520,000	888,000 ^r	130,000	124,000	899,000
Exports:					
Ore and concentrate	292,000	128,000	4,440	NA	78,000 ²
Bullion	129	60	12	NA	88 ²
Wrought and unwrought lead	82,400	53,400	3,220	NA	30,400 ²
TEL/TML preparations, based on lead compounds	1,020	554	140	NA	1,010 ²
Exports (gross weight): Scrap	56,300	33,200	6,400	NA	35,800 ²
Platts Metals Week North American producer price (cents per pound)	55.14	51.91	60.76	60.36	60.69

^cEstimated. ^rRevised. NA Not available.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits, except prices; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes data for January - June only; July data were not available at time of publication.

TABLE 2
MONTHLY AVERAGE LEAD PRICES

	North American producer price cents/lb	LME		Sterling exchange rate dollars/£
		\$/metric ton	£/metric ton	
2004:				
July	54.09	938.85	509.19	1.843800
December	60.73	974.39	505.22	1.928639
Year	55.14	885.95	483.26	1.832475
2005:				
May	60.77	987.71	541.77	1.823100
June	60.76	985.66	542.25	1.817736
July	60.36	854.07	487.83	1.750745

Source: Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 3
CONSUMPTION OF PURCHASED LEAD-BASE SCRAP¹

(Metric tons, gross weight)

Item	Stocks June 30, 2005	Net receipts	Consumption	Stocks July 31, 2005
Battery-lead	12,900	80,400	80,700	12,700
Soft lead	W	W	W	W
Drosses and residues	W	W	W	W
Other ²	13,700	13,300	13,200	13,700
Total	26,600	93,700	93,900	26,400
Percent change from preceding month	XX	-3.3	-3.3	-0.6

W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included with "Other." XX Not applicable.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes solder, common babbitt, antimonial lead, cable covering, type metals, and other lead-base scrap not elsewhere classified.

TABLE 4
LEAD, TIN, AND ANTIMONY RECOVERED FROM
LEAD-BASE SCRAP IN JULY 2005¹

(Metric tons)

Product recovered	Secondary metal content		
	Lead	Tin	Antimony
Soft and calcium lead	69,600	--	--
Remelt lead	W	--	--
Antimonial lead	22,600	(2)	(2)
Other ³	378	(2)	(2)
Total lead-base	92,600	141	279

W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included in "Other."
-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

²Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included with "Total."

³Includes cable lead, lead-base babbitt, solder, type metals, and other products.

TABLE 5
CONSUMPTION OF LEAD IN THE UNITED STATES¹

(Metric tons, lead content)

Use	2004		2005		
	January - December	January - July ^r	June	July	January - July
Metal products:					
Ammunition, shot and bullets	61,500	35,900	5,380	4,240	33,800
Brass and bronze, billet and ingots	4,190	2,440	281	281	1,960
Cable covering, power and communication and cabling lead, building construction	5,540	3,230	174	174	3,250
Casting metals	17,900	10,500	1,490	1,490	10,500
Sheet lead, pipes, traps and other extruded products	32,400	18,900	2,580	2,690	19,000
Solder	7,440	4,340	610	533	4,350
Storage batteries, including oxides	1,290,000	751,000	111,000	106,000	765,000
Terne metal, type metal, and other metal products ²	1,770	1,030	185	185	1,900
Total metal products	1,420,000	827,000	121,000	116,000	840,000
Other oxides and miscellaneous	59,600	34,800	4,650	4,650	32,900
Total reported	1,480,000	862,000	126,000	120,000	872,000
Undistributed ^c	44,300	25,900	3,780	3,610	26,200
Grand total	1,520,000	888,000	130,000	124,000	899,000

^cEstimated. ^rRevised.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes lead consumed in foil, collapsible tubes, annealing, plating, galvanizing, and fishing weights.

TABLE 6
CONSUMER AND SECONDARY SMELTER STOCKS, RECEIPTS,
AND CONSUMPTION OF LEAD¹

(Metric tons, lead content)

Type of material	Stocks June 30, 2005	Net receipts	Consumption	Stocks July 31, 2005
Soft lead	32,800 ^r	60,100	59,700	33,200
Antimonial lead	11,800	33,600	33,200	12,100
Lead alloys	W	W	W	W
Copper-base scrap	W	W	W	W
Total	60,700 ^r	113,000	113,000	61,500

^rRevised. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included in "Total."

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

TABLE 7
U.S. EXPORTS OF LEAD, BY CLASS¹

(Metric tons)

	2004		2005		
	June	Year	May	June	January - June
Lead content:					
Ore and concentrates	4,220	292,000	26,100	4,440	78,000
Bullion	9	129	7	12	88
Materials excluding scrap	5,690	82,400	4,480	3,220	30,400
TEL/TML preparations, based on lead compounds	365	1,020	203	140	1,010
Total	10,300	375,000	30,800	7,810	110,000
Gross weight: Scrap	3,360	56,300	7,760	6,400	35,800

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 8
U.S. IMPORTS OF LEAD BY TYPE OF MATERIALS AND BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN¹

(Metric tons, lead content)

Country of origin	General imports					Imports for consumption				
	2004		2005			2004		2005		
	Year	January - June	May	June	January - June	Year	January - June	May	June	January - June
Base bullion:										
Mexico	3	1	--	--	--	3	1	--	--	--
Other	--	--	--	4	10	--	--	--	4	10
Total	3	1	--	4	10	3	1	--	4	10
Pigs and bars:										
Australia	--	--	--	--	18,800	13,700	7,290	--	--	18,800
Canada	166,000	76,600	17,900	17,400	101,000	166,000	76,600	17,900	17,400	101,000
Mexico	8,810	663	682	1,880	3,990	8,810	6,770	682	1,880	3,990
Peru	7,270	1,730	2,500	468	7,440	7,270	1,730	2,500	468	7,440
Other	1,310	7,500 ^r	4,040	5,010	9,180	1,450	1,070 ^r	4,040	5,010	9,180
Total	183,000	86,500 ^r	25,100	24,800	140,000	197,000	93,500	25,100	24,800	140,000
Grand total	183,000	86,500 ^r	25,100	24,800	140,000	197,000	93,500	25,100	24,800	140,000

^rRevised. -- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.